

Martyr Chiefs of Russia.

Men and Women Who Have Laid Down Their Lives in the Cause of Liberty

Among the clandestine literature now being circulated broadcast in Russia are the leaflets and brochures that relate to the history and progress of the revolutionary movement. The Czar's government expressly forbids the publication of news relating to political conspiracies, attempts at assassination and trials of revolutionists.

Since the recent war reverses in the east the Russian censorship has been somewhat relaxed, especially in regard to messages sent abroad; another step forward was signalized when the St. Petersburg newspapers were permitted to publish long accounts of the assassination of Von Plehve. Yet in one respect the embargo of the autocratic system upon news still remains. It continues to be impossible in Russia to publish biographical sketches of revolutionists and their doings; as, therefore, the task of supplying such information



VERA SASSULICH

falls exclusively upon the "underground" press, clandestine literature obtains a circulation, even among the official classes, which the very prohibition of it makes literally enormous.

One of the classic incidents of the revolutionary movement in Russia is that associated with the name of Vera Sassulich, for, though there had been acts of revolutionary violence before her time, there was something in her act and its conditions that entitle her to be called the pioneer of the modern phase of terrorism in Russia. And when, in February, 1878, she took upon herself to punish Gen. Trepov, the chief of St. Petersburg police, for his cruelty to a student whom he had under detention, the whole of non-official Russia hailed the act, not only with applause, but also with delight.

The Russia of the seventies came within an ace of convincing the subjects of the Czar that they were born slaves and must remain so. In 1873-4 alone some 1,500 propagandists were arrested and subjected to the agony long-drawn-out of "preliminary detention." Of the total number only 190 were brought for trial, while about seventy-three died, went mad or committed suicide.

As the years went on, administrative tyranny grew in severity; students' protests were crushed with revolting barbarity; oppression in the prisons gave rise to hunger strikes. For a while the instigator of these abuses, Gen. Mesentsev, head of the state or secret police, was enabled to pursue his plans for rooting out the widespread disaffection which prevailed. But in 1878 he was warned that if the government took the life of Kavalsky, a revolutionist, then under arrest at Odessa, his own would pay the forfeit. Kavalsky was shot, and two days later the sentence of the revolutionists against Gen. Mesentsev was executed in the Nevsky Prospekt.

The man who thus "lifted the dagger," if he did not "stir a city's revolt," was the man afterward widely known in Europe as a litterateur, and

in New England as a lecturer, under the pseudonym of "Stepniak"—the man whom, on the occasion of his visit to Boston in 1893, that acute and careful judge of men, Phillips Brooks, did not disdain to visit and to befriend.

Stepniak lost his life as the result of a railroad accident. In recalling personal memories of him Robert Spence Watson, the member of Parliament, said: "He was one of the rare men whose personal influence is magnetic, and from communion with whom you never come away unsatisfied. His was a mind capable of long, acute and profound thought. There was coupled with this mind a body of powerful build, admirably disciplined. He was strong, true, single-minded, earnest for the truth, wherever it may lead. When the news reached this country that Mme. Sigida had succumbed beneath the cruelties and indignities she had suffered, Stepniak suffered terribly. I then saw the great man who had been the moving spirit of the great terrorist movement, the war of revenge against the oppressors by the oppressed—the stern, bold, determined avenger of the wrong done by brutal power. It was a grand, a terrible revelation!"

"Only of middle height, if not shorter, he was uncommonly broad both in the shoulders and from chest to back, while his thickly set arms, hands, legs, feet, seemed to have been made of cast iron. On this herculean body a big head, with dark complexion, jet black hair, mustache and beard—the two latter somewhat curling—and deep-cut, large, but manly, features rested. It might be taken for that of a Russian gypsy but for the openheartedness of its expression, while unbounded energy flashed from its beautiful, flaming dark eyes."

Such is the description, given by his prison friend, Volkovsky, of Peter Alexeyev, the weaver, who, born an illiterate peasant in a village of the Smolensk province, taught himself at the age of 16 or 17 to read and write. Becoming familiar with the revolutionary literature of Russia, he joined the propaganda movement, and at the age of 20 was already working in it with all the ardor of a novice.

His plan was to travel from one weaving mill to another, spending enough time in each to inoculate his fellow-workmen with the microbe of political discontent. He was finally captured in Moscow. At the trial he made a speech which is memorable in the revolutionary annals. Having refused the assistance of a barrister, on the ground that the verdict had been arranged beforehand, he proceeded to deliver a crushing indictment against the autocratic regime.

"While we are only boys of 9 years



STEPNIK KRAVCHINSKY.

of age," said he, "we are placed under the supervision of adults who, by means of kicks and the rod, accustom us to being overworked; any food is good enough; we are choked by dust

Discomfited Lawyer.

During the last session of the Circuit court in a small town in southern Wisconsin a well-known Badger lawyer came to grief by being just a little too sharp. According to his habit, he was browbeating one of the witnesses, "Now, Mr. Jones," said he, "you can answer that question a little more clearly. You are not as green as you look." "Yes," drawled the witness, in reply, "I am a butcher by profession and not a lawyer."

Leprosy in Japan.

Japan has 200,000 registered cases of leprosy. There is no pity or compassion for the lepers. Man or woman, young or old, they are turned adrift on the highways, homeless wanderers, dependent for subsistence upon casual doles of food thrown to them from afar.

India's Exports.

The exports of merchandise from India amount to about \$400,000,000 annually, and the United States gets a large share of this—about \$30,000,000, or more than 7 per cent. The imports of manufactured goods amount to about \$250,000,000 annually.

The Reason Why.

Drummond, Wis., Sept. 19 (Special).—Whole families in Bayfield County are singing the praises of Dodd's Kidney Pills and the reason why is given in experiences such as that of Mr. T. T. Wold, a well-known citizen here. "I had such pains in my back that I did not know what to do," says Mr. Wold, "and as I came across an advertisement of Dodd's Kidney Pills I sent for a box. That one box relieved me of all my pains. My wife also used them and found them just what she needed. I recommend Dodd's Kidney Pills as a sure cure for Backache and other Kidney Troubles."

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The French department of Lot and Garonne has made a remarkable innovation. There are 126 doctors in the department, and a contract has been made with them to look after the health of the poor people in the district for an annual payment of \$10,000. The doctors engage to give their services irrespective of the number of people who desire them.

Ancient Cross.

An ancient stone cross is still preserved in England, near Mitchell Troy, which dates back to early Saxon times. The general lines are obviously of Saxon design, as are the quaint bosses used in the ornamentation. Its exact utility is in doubt, but it is supposed to have marked the meeting place of early Saxon tribes.

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